Export of Agricultural Products

Year	Country's total Exports (Rs. in Crores)	Agricultural Exports (Rs. in Crores)	% share of Agricultural Exports against Country's total exports
1996-97	118817.31	24362.57	20.50
1997-98	126285.76	23798.37	18.80
1998-99	141603.53	25224.63	17.81
1999-2000 (Apr.-Dec.)	118638.40	18207.80	15.35

(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta)

(d) International trade in agricultural products is dependent on prevailing international demand coinciding with domestic ability to supply, prevailing world prices of commodities, the varieties being traded and consumer preferences.

Export by Export Processing Zones

†2468. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export to be made by the units set up under the Export Processing Zones and Free Trade Zones is much less out of the total export made from the country;

(b) if not, the percentage of the average annual export made during the last three years; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have extended maximum facilities for export to these units?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The percentage from Export Processing Zones (EPZs), against the total exports of the country, during the last three years are given below :—

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Year	Percentage of EPZs exports against the total exports of the country
1996-97	3.65
1997-98	3.70
1998-99	3.71

(c) As a measure to promote exports, the entitlements given to the units in EPZs include exemption from Customs/excise duty on capital goods, raw materials etc. tax holiday as per the Income Tax Act, re-imbursement of Central Sales Tax paid on purchase from outside the State, foreign equity participation, facility to sell a part of their production in the domestic market and an upgraded infrastructure.

INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE EXPORTS

2469. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) What steps are being taken to encourage exports by giving additional incentives;

(b) Whether it is a fact that exports market is competitive and exporters are not getting much incentives from Government;

(c) if so, the reason therefor; and

(d) When the quantitative restriction on Indian goods will be removed by America and E.U. countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) In the revised Exim Policy (RE-2000), (1997-2002) notified on 31-3-2000, Government has taken various measures to promote exports. These include setting up Special Economic Zones, rationalisation of existing export promotion schemes (EPCG and Duty Exemption/Remission Scheme), encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplifications, de-centralisation in decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and Government organisations through the facility of electronic filing of applications at some port offices etc. All these steps are aimed at making Indian exports competitive by reducing transaction costs and time.